Wellesley College News

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Photograph by Nichols, Wellesley.

THE FIRE.

The daily papers have already carried to Wellesley Alumnæ the news that College Hall was destroyed, in the early morning of March seventeenth, by a fire that burned with incredible rapidity, sweeping from the upper floors of the west end of the building to the east and consuming the whole interior, with flames of spectacular fierceness. There was no panic, no confusion, no delay. In a household of two hundred and sixteen not one life was lost, nor was any person injured. These college women were calm, intrepid, and magnificently thoughtless of self. During the entire ordeal there was but one spirit manifested,—an invincible loyalty to their training. We all have reason to be proud that Wellesley's officers and students triumphed in this time of severest trial. Those who were not in the midst of the danger can scarcely appreciate the strength and courage of those who have given us a priceless tradition of heroic self-control.

It is impossible to tell the details of a catastrophe that came with such overwhelming rapidity, for each survivor saw different aspects and had different experiences from others. It is equally impossible to give the names of all those who in one way or another displayed courage and presence of mind. Who first discovered the fire will be unknown, for several people were awakened almost simultaneously. The first warning was given a little after half-past four. Two students on the fourth floor, room 440 (formerly 144) were awakened by smoke and saw reflected in their transom the glow of fire in the zoological laboratory across the corridor. One went to find the watchman, the other to arouse Miss Tufts and Miss Davis. While they were doing this, another girl had begun to ring the Japanese bell. Miss Tufts hurried to the switchboard on the first floor to arouse President Pendleton. Miss Davis went to the first floor and stationed a girl under the master clock to ring the fast-fire alarm, which means a continuous clanging of the gongs that have marked recitation periods. The strident sound aroused nearly every one in the house and, instantly obedient to their training in fire-drills, the students threw on kimonos or heavy coats and went down to the first floor Center. Some thought it was an ordinary fire-drill, but many must have realized the truth, for they were barefooted. On the staircase stood Miss Davis, waiting to superintend the roll-call. Grouped around the Center, where the morning before they had thronged to cheer the winners and the losers in the debate with Mount Holyoke, and, at the end, to cheer with heartiest enthusiasm Miss Pendleton and the Wellesley spirit, those girls, with splendid composure, responded to the accustomed discipline of fire-drill. They were ordered to take the places they always occupied in the drill, and each lieutenant rapidly called the roll of the squad of about twenty girls for whom she was responsible, and then reported to Miss Davis whether or not all were present.

After the first report was given and Miss Davis had been notified regarding missing persons (whom she sought, later, in their rooms), she gave the order to go, but fearing that there might be some omission she called upon the girls to halt and be sure that they had forgotten no one. The group obeyed implicitly Miss Davis' command to wait. While the girls waited for the roll there was no sign of emotional excitement among them. According to the rules, the word "fire" was not spoken. There was some murmur of conversation, but this was immediately hushed, and there were a few seconds apparently when the only sound was the ominous one of falling heavy brands. The red glow became more and more menacing, casting a lurid glare over the interior, and sparks and burning embers began to sprinkle in the Center, some of them falling on the hair and on the shoulders of the girls. When the second report had been given, the order came for them to march to safety. Across the Center they moved in good order and passed out through the two windows at the side of the front (north) door, the door itself remaining closed. A few students went out the south door. No one can tell precisely how long an interval passed, but the evidence seems to indicate that in less than ten minutes after the fire was discovered, all the students were out of the building.

Once outside, they saw the flames on the fourth floor,—west, increasing in brightness and leaping up into the air, with very little smoke. It was natural that students should hope that they might be allowed to go back to rescue certain possessions, family pictures and other irreplaceable things, but there was no protest or murmur when they were forbidden to re-enter the building. The wisdom of this order was proved when it was discovered how rapidly the fire was spreading.

While Miss Davis was marshalling the students, various members of the staff were busy in the effort to warn and help others. Miss Calkins, who had spent the night in her office on the fifth floor, was awakened by smoke and she hastened down the west staircase to call Miss Case, but found that Miss Case was already up and had herself awakened Miss Smith. After helping Miss Case to the first floor, carrying her chair for her. Miss Calkins knocked at doors and helped arouse students on her way to Mrs. Irvine's room in the second Center. Getting no response to her knocking and finding the door locked, Miss Calkins determined to find a man with an ax and soon had the door broken in. It was found that the room had not been occupied the night before. Miss Tufts, after coming from the telephone office, went at once to rooms of members of the Faculty on the third floor, west, not knowing that Miss Calkins had already been there, and then made a circuit of rooms on the second floor where lived members of the domestic department. At the east end and elsewhere, one member of the Faculty had been helping another, the students having already informed some of them that it was a real fire. A sense of responsibility for the safety of others was shown repeatedly. One member of the staff, who had been ill, was called twice by the same student.

Hurried investigation having shown that every resident of College Hall was accounted for, attention was turned to the work of saving property.

(Continued on page 3.)

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A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT PENDLETON.

March 28, 1914.

Dear Wellesley Friends:—

The unbelievable is true. College Hall is a ruin. But it is stately and majestic in its desolation, and it inspires us to face the future with courage. While we rejoice that no life was lost, we must grieve that College Hall, which was the visible habitation of precious memories and dear associations, is gone; but we know that no fire can take from us Wellesley women our heritage, invisible but steadfast.

Besides residence for two hundred and sixteen people, College Hall contained twenty-eight recitation rooms, an assembly hall (the old chapel), a study hall (the old library), the laboratories of the departments of geology, psychology, physics, and zoology, administrative offices, offices of twenty departments (that is, all except those of art, astronomy, chemistry, hygiene and music), and luncheon and cloak rooms for non-resident Faculty and students.

You will be glad to know that College Hall with its equipment was appraised by experts about a year ago; this means that the College has recovered the largest possible sum through insurance, but it is pitifully inadequate. It is estimated that we shall need more than two million dollars to replace with separate buildings the accommodations furnished by College Hall. The insurance will yield about six hundred thousand dollars. When we had College Hall we needed more dormitory accommodation; we need it now more than ever. Our campaign for the Million Dollar Endowment Fund must not be dropped. We must obtain the whole to secure the sum of two hundred thousand dollars promised by the General Education Board. We have between five and six hundred thousand dollars still to raise. All the new buildings must be equipped and maintained. The sum that our Alma Mater requires for immediate needs is two million dollars. But this is not all. Another million will soon be needed, properly to house our departments of botany and chemistry, to provide a student-alumnæ building, and sufficient dormitories to house on the campus the more than five hundred students now living in the village. We are facing a great crisis in the history of the College. The future of our Alma Mater is in our hands. Crippled by this loss, Wellesley cannot continue to hold in the future its place in the front rank of colleges, unless the response is generous and immediate.

To sum up, Alma Mater needs three million dollars, two million of which must be raised immediately. Shall we be daunted by this sum? We are justly proud of the courage and self-control of those dwellers in College Hall, both Faculty and students. Shall we be outdone by them in facing a crisis? Shall we be less courageous, less resourceful? The public press has described the fire as a triumph, not a disaster. Shall we continue the triumph, and make our College in equipment what it has proved itself in spirit—The College Beautiful? We can and we must.

Faithfully yours,

ELLEN F. PENDLETON.

THE MILLION DOLLAR ENDOWMENT.

Since the great disaster befell our Alma Mater, from Wellesley women all over the country comes the question: "How can we help?" The Alumnæ Endowment Fund Committee, after consultation with President Pendleton, and Mr. Morse, Treasurer of the College, offers the following statement in answer to the question in all our hearts, on all our lips.

The first enquiry which our committee put to the College authorities was this: Do you want us to stand aside till the new buildings are assured, or shall we redouble our efforts for the Fund? And the answer came back straight and strong: We need the endowment now more than ever. And this of course is obvious. We can get along indefinitely with makeshift buildings, but we could not live a year with a makeshift Faculty. So, briefly, this is the situation: We have started to raise a Million Dollar Endowment for absolutely essential increase to the salaries of our Faculty. We shall now need two hundred and fifty thousand additional endowment for the maintenance of the separate buildings which will be necessary to fill the place of College Hall: dormitories, science, administration and classroom buildings; and we must find the money to build these. Nearly half of the first million is pledged. *Over and above this, and the insurance, we must raise for endowment and building two million dollars.*

It is a big contract; it comes at a season of business depression, and the daughters of Wellesley are not rich in this world's goods. All this we know, but we know, too, that the greater the need the more eagerly will love and loyalty respond; that while business may be depressed our energy and enthusiasm are at their highest; that if we have not money, we have ability, and, perhaps, rich friends. Anyway, here is our task; next, how can we accomplish it? In nearly every Club and state of the Union, there is an Endowment Fund Committee. Many of us have already pledged ourselves to give; some of us can add to our pledges. Those who have not yet promised anything, can promise it now, not tomorrow, but to-day. And *every one* can give *something;* it may be only a dollar, but that will help. Many classes are planning reunion gifts, and some of these are to go to the Fund. Make your class gift to your Club or State committee, and ask to have it credited to your class; we have arranged a double system of classification, by which every Alumna's gift will be credited both to her class and to the local committee through which she contributes.

In many towns, Club entertainments have been given for the Fund. The form which so far has yielded the largest results in comparison with the labor, has been the benefit,—that is the buying out of a theatrical performance, and reselling tickets. But other things have been done successfully. The Central Committee has a certain amount of material concerning all of these entertainments, which it will be only too glad to place at the disposal of any club, committee or group.

And we can all ask our friends to help. Not just by asking them to give money; that is not an easy or pleasant, or, often, a possible thing to do. But we can ask them to come to our benefits; we can ask them to help us to the right sort of publicity; we can ask them for suggestions; and over and above all, we can all find out about some one who might and could give largely if approached by the Trustees.

We may well realize that this is the crisis in the life of Wellesley, and we who love our College and owe her much, have now our opportunity to show that love and gratitude, and by our unsparing labor and ungrudging gifts rebuild a new Wellesley, which can give to others as richly as the old Wellesley gave to us.

CANDACE C. STIMSON, '92, Chairman.
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A WAY IN WHICH ALL CAN BE HELPFUL.

It should be understood that biographical records of former members of the College are almost a total loss. One office copy of the Wellesley Record, published in December, 1912, was saved;—not however, the annotated copy which brought the material down to the date of the fire. The files of COLLEGE NEWS of course afford material for the renewal of some of these records, but such a method is slow and inadequate. All former members of the College, therefore, are asked to send in notice of any change of address which has occurred since November, 1912; also notice of births, deaths, marriages, changes of position or occupation, and other biographical details referring to a time later than that date. COLLEGE NEWS will continue to be of great service, but it may be questioned whether the editors would be able to give space for all the items which should now be supplied. Such matter, therefore, if addressed to the Wellesley Record, Wellesley College, will be put into use just as soon as possible. In this respect, as in many another, the administration must ask the patience of all its friends, since the most pressing needs must receive the first attention.

MARY CASWELL,
Secretary to the President.

A REQUEST FROM THE LIBRARIAN.

Miss Brooks is anxious to make for the library a collection of clippings from newspapers and periodicals, which contain articles on the fire or on Wellesley at this time. She will be grateful for any items which people will kindly send to the College library.

NOTICES.

It is hoped that any regular subscriber to the NEWS who does not receive a copy of the fire issue will send word at once to the NEWS. Copies are being sent to all former members of the College as well as to all graduates.

The Juniors are planning to repeat their Junior play, "Beau Brummel," which will be given at the Cort Theater in Boston on Thursday and on Friday afternoons, April 2 and 3. This will be a benefit performance. The theater has been kindly loaned for the occasion.

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To be sent to President Pendleton.

Photograph by Nichols, Wellesley.

(Concluded from page 1.)

THE FIRE.

Miss Mary Frazer Smith, Secretary to the Dean, went to the key-board, then standing in the front yard, seized the key to the Dean's office and, with the aid of Mr. Monaghan, rescued all the records of students' marks from 1875 to the present day. Placing these most valuable academic documents in an automobile, she carried them to the President's house, where several members of the Faculty came to seek refuge. Miss Pendleton, at the first call, had hurried to the building, and assured that all lives were saved, devoted herself to the welfare of students, anxious to save them from unnecessary exposure.

The Wellesley Fire Department had responded gallantly to the call, but they found the water pressure insufficient to force the streams to the heart of the flames. Help from Natick and from Newton arrived quickly and these engines pumped water from the lake, but it was soon apparent that nothing could prevail against the terrible onset of the flames. The building was doomed. The firemen, the men employed by the College, and several generous men from Wellesley Village worked with frantic haste to save whatever could be rescued. Some of the students had gone to nearby houses to get clothing and had returned again, but many refused to go away, so determined were they to help in any way possible. A long fire-line was formed by the undergraduates, rapidly arriving, and this line, which extended from the front of College Hall down to the Library, passed along to safety many books, papers, and various other objects taken from the Center and from departmental offices at the east end of the building. Almost nothing was saved above the first floor.

As Miss Pendleton patrolled the fire-line her energetic questioning was met by every student, even by those who were still barefooted, with the immediate response: "I'm perfectly comfortable, Miss Pendleton," "I'm perfectly all right, Miss Pendleton." It is impossible to praise too much the way in which the students and the older women triumphed over discomfort, anxiety, and personal losses. Instead of mourning, they devoted themselves to the service of others, and by their indefatigable efforts helped to rescue many precious things that would otherwise have perished.

In the Center, desperate energy was shown. Desks were carried out from the president's office, and from the registrar's, some pictures were snatched from the walls, much was saved from the Browning room, but it was soon highly unsafe for the firemen to stay. The crash of falling brick and timber, the terrible intensity of heat and of red fire, forced the fire chief to drive his men down to the east end of the building, and Wellesley women saw the Center vanish. Tongues of flame that had been creeping around ceilings and walls, curling in and out of the balustrades of the staircases, leaped into tempestuous waves. The palms shrivelled and cracked, sending out strange colors as they disappeared. Harriet Martineau, who had sat spectral and silent in this tumult, was crushed and broken by falling bricks and sank through the floor of fire.

At about 5 o'clock a person coming from the hill saw College Hall burning between the dining-room and Center, apparently from the third floor up to the roof, in high, clear flames with very little smoke. Suddenly the whole top seemed to catch fire at once and the blaze rushed downward and upward, leaping into the dull gray atmosphere of a foggy morning. With a terrific crash the roof fell in, and soon every window in the front of College Hall was filled with roaring flames, surging towards the east, framed in the dark red brick wall which served to accentuate the lurid glow that had seized and held a building almost one-eighth of a mile long. The roar of devastating fury, the crackle of brands, the smell of burning wood and melting iron, filled the air, but almost no sound came from the human beings who saw the irrepressible blaze consume everything but the brick walls.

The old library and the chapel were soon filled with great billows of flame, which, finding more space for action, made a spectacle of majestic but awful splendor. Eddies of fire crept along the black-walnut bookcases, and all that dark framework of our beloved old library. By great strides the blaze advanced, until innumerable curling, writhing flames were rioting all through a spot always hushed "in the quiet and still air of delightful studies." The fire raged across the walls, in and around the sides and the beautiful curving tops of the windows that for so many springs and summers had framed spaces of green grass, on which fitful shadows had fallen, to be dreamed over by generations of students. In the chapel, tremendous waves swelled and glowed, reaching almost from floor to ceiling as they erased the texts from the walls, demolished the stained-glass windows, defaced, but did not completely destroy the College motto graven over them, and, in convulsive gusts swept from end to end of the chapel, pouring in and out of the windows in brilliant light and color. Seen from the campus below, the burning east end of the building loomed up magnificent even in the havoc and desolation it was suffering.

The Faculty parlor was one of the last places to be consumed. The gilding and fresco work yielded slowly to the blaze and created appallingly beautiful color effects. In the midst of the seething mass of flame, the white marble statue of Elaine was seen, turning upon her pivot in almost human distress, before the floor opened and dashed her down. The fact that the night had been misty probably saved the oaks from destruction, and undoubtedly the absence of strong wind was the salvation of other buildings on the campus; perhaps the safety of Wellesley Village depended upon the quiet dampness of the atmosphere, for in yards and on roofs a mile away, charred embers were found that morning.

When members of the Faculty in the village, aroused too late to be of help, reached the campus, at about 7.30, they found it almost deserted, except for a few strangers, and for the stray pieces of furniture standing about. Here was a piano, there a desk. Busts of Homer and of others peered out from the lowest branches of the hemlocks, and men with carts were rapidly removing to the barn whatever remained out of doors. The students had dispersed for breakfast, and a heavy silence hung over Wellesley College.

At 8.30, the usual hour, service was held in the chapel, which was so thronged that many had to stand. The service was, perhaps, the most impressive ever held at Wellesley. President Pendleton, in her academic robes, appeared upon the platform, her strength and resolute courage made clear by her perfect composure. The atmosphere was tense, but there were no tears, no nervous whisperings, nothing to show what a terrible ordeal some of the worshippers had survived. A serene gravity and quiet marked the attitude of all present. The choir, many of whom had, only three hours earlier, escaped from the burning building, marched up the aisle, singing,

"O God, our help in ages past."

After the responsive reading of Psalm XCI, beginning, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," Miss Pendleton read a brief passage from the end of Romans VIII, concluding in a voice of unforgetable exaltation,

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

After a brief prayer of thankfulness for the preservation of so many lives, Miss Pendleton announced that College was suspended, and that all students who could reach home by night were requested to go as soon as possible, to leave room for the sufferers. She spoke of the prompt and generous offers of assistance from the Town of Wellesley, of the arrangements made by the Wellesley bank and by the Boston & Albany Railroad for assisting the speedy departure of the students; she announced the plan of delivery of College Hall mail, and then came an announcement which struck the note that has been dominant ever since, and that, more than anything else, revealed the splendid poise and determination of our President. She stated that the spring term would begin at the time already set, April 7, and charged all students to register in the Library by 1 o'clock that day. Nothing could have been a better challenge to College loyalty. Instead of yielding to discouragement and despair, she made her hearers feel that there was work to do, and that the first duty of all was to rally undaunted to support our academic life, allowing no obstacle to stand in the way of completing the College year.

Singing the recessional,

"Who trusts in God, a strong abode,
In heaven and earth possesses,"

the choir marched out, the College dispersed quietly, and plans were begun for meeting the most momentous crisis in the history of the College. The schedule officer sat down to write out from memory the schedule of June examinations which had been posted the day before; mail for the residents in College Hall was delivered in the Library at half-past nine; at half-past ten, agents of the Boston and Albany Railroad were holding office hours in the Library. At 11 o'clock, a short meeting of the Faculty was held in Billings Hall. By the middle of the afternoon nearly all the students had departed, and the campus was deserted except by strangers, come to see the ruins. To-day the walls up to the fourth floor, and, in many places, of the fourth floor itself, are standing. The kitchen, the old gymnasium wing, and the new dormitory for servants are intact, saved by the iron fire-wall put in to protect College Hall from the kitchen.

The ruined walls have an impressive dignity, for they are singularly unblackened. That hollow shell, with its jagged outlines and black window spaces, conceals a mass of wreckage of indescribable value; family papers and heirlooms, furniture, clothes, books, lecture notes, records, syllabi, photographs, have all vanished into ashes. The losses to the departments of geology, zoology, psychology, and physics seem overwhelming. Teachers have lost work that embodied the results of years of study and investigation. Details of these losses will be given in later issues of College News, as it is impossible at present to form any correct estimate of what was destroyed. It is enough to say that beyond a very few garments and books, the occupants of College Hall lost everything.

There is a certain majesty in the desolation of a place where for almost thirty-nine years the invisible flame of aspiring intellectual life has been kept alight. This building which has been home to so many of us, in which for years all College exercises were conducted, was the very heart of our College life. Each of us has memories too poignant and too personal to share. We remember the places in recitation room, library, or chapel, where there came those moments of high spiritual quest, when through the guidance of teachers, lecturers, preachers, or books, we first realized the power of the individual to triumph over difficulties and achieve some share of eternal truth. Can these things vanish, these memories that have been so deeply associated with College Hall? We look at these ruins with eyes that are still uncomprehending. An intellectual stronghold has perished; the home, the central hearth of Wellesley College is in ruins, and a great tradition will be dead unless the daughters of Wellesley help to rebuild her walls. In brick and stone and timber we can give material expression to our pride in Wellesley's past and our faith in her future. No money can restore College Hall with all its associations, but what that building has meant to us, other buildings will mean to younger women, if we who hope for the continuance of Wellesley's best traditions do our duty. For the sake of those who have lost all their possessions, for the sake of old memories, for the sake of that spiritual quickening which has come to us through our years of residence in Wellesley College, let us give generously, gladly, and at once.

An Alumna.

THE BURNING OF COLLEGE HALL.

I was awakened by the rapid flight of feet down the corridor; they were either bare feet or covered with bedroom slippers, for it was the swiftness of the footfalls, so strangely light and flying, that roused me to consciousness. I sprang up, ran out into the corridor, just in time to hear a voice saying to Miss Davis: "The house is on fire," and Miss Davis's answer. I ran back to my room and in the same moment the gong rang throughout the house. As I entered my door, I saw through the unshuttered window the whole heavens alight, and the flame rising over the extreme other end of the building,—the west wing. The fire started between the fourth and fifth floors. That mad scamper of feet down the corridor must have aroused others, too, for on the very instant of the alarm, doors seemed to fly open, and people who had snatched up a kimono were going down the stairs in perfect order. I heard no outcry; in fact, I heard no human voice above the hurrying feet, no lamentation, no questioning, nothing but the automatic quick march of people down the stairs, in the order in which they had been told to go. The quietness of all the human life contrasted most solemnly and awfully with the roar and crackling of the flames. I stopped in my room to get a strong box with valuable papers, put my feet into boots, took a coat from the closet, and left. The light in the heavens was terrifying in its brilliance and ominousness, and gave me an overwhelming sense of the violence of the flames. Outside it seemed dark, but as I picked up my watch I noticed it was 4.45. As I left my room, I saw that my opposite neighbor's room was in darkness, though fire orders are to turn on the electricity at once. I pounded and kicked at her door for what seemed many minutes, before she answered: "Is it a real fire?" She stopped for nothing but a coat and soon followed. As I went down the third floor corridor to the Center, the light in every room was on, and every room empty, and the house still except for the crackling and tumult and roar of the flames. There was no smoke in the third floor corridor for it was all going upward, and even the smell of smoke was not strong. In the first floor Center, Miss Davis was giving orders to the girls; the roll-call was just finishing, every one answering quietly. The student fire captains behaved as if they were veterans; for the few who had not answered to the roll-call, messengers were sent without confusion. I heard Miss Davis ordering some groups to go to the hill houses. The roar of the fire had greatly increased by this time and chips of flame were falling down into the Center while we stood there. Occasionally a louder crash resounded. A small group of us went out to the south porch and over to Stone Hall, talking quietly, but not nervously. I saw no tears, no sign of tears, no one who looked as if she were terror stricken. Several people offered to help me with the bundle I was carrying, most naturally, as one would help at any time. One girl remarked: "How the cold of this concrete strikes into my feet!" and we noticed she was barefooted. We stopped, while some one who had put on bed slippers and had grabbed a pair of boots which she held in her hand, helped the barefooted girl into boots.

Soon girls from other houses assembled and, with the College Hall students, formed long lines, passing from hand to hand the things which were being thrown out of windows. The work was very systematically organized and efficient. The College employees were throwing things out, working with great dispatch. Miss Mary Frazer Smith superintended the removal of the records, the marks of past and present students, which, in their proper drawers, were taken to the president's house in an automobile. It is too soon yet to enumerate the things saved and lost. The last things I remember seeing on the lawn were the President's chair from the Faculty parlor and a framed picture of Fraulein Wenckebach.

And in all this hurly-burly of rescue work, of men shouting to clear the way for something to be thrown out of a window, there was no confusion. Everybody seemed calm, collected, quick to see individual needs, kindly in responding to them. The west wing was belching living sheets of flame from every window; I watched it sweep over to the east wing, with incredible rapidity, until I saw it surging out of the window in the fourth floor above my room. Then I could look no longer. It was about seven or a quarter to seven, I think, at that time. The fire had been burning two hours.

Miss Case was thought of at once, and the girl who was responsible for bringing down her wheeled chair went to bring it down, automatically, found that Miss Calkins had already brought it, and Miss Case was taken to the Library. Mrs. Irvine was away for the night, but since she had not answered the roll-call and her door was locked, men broke into the room with a hatchet to make sure she was not there. Apparently nobody forgot her duty or responsibility for others. The great outstanding fact in the whole experience is the value of fire drills. Muscles and mind seem to make an almost mechanical response to the forms that have been gone through again and again, as if the emergency were at hand. When the emergency does come, the response is automatic, without effort. But greater than this, and greatest of all, was the steadiness of nerve which two hundred girls showed; a control that was intelligent, unafraid, and clear-sighted. I saw expressions on faces that day which will go with me to my grave, of pure human comradeliness, of an almost divine compassionateness and oneness of everybody with everybody else. We stood in that gray light of early morning as if we were disembodied spirits, head and heart at their highest and purest. The burning of College Hall will always bear supreme witness to the worth of college discipline and college unity.

At 8.30 chapel service was held, crowded so full that many stood,—perhaps the most impressive service in the memory of Wellesley. The president referred to the calamity, bade all who lived near to go home at once in order to make room for two hundred and sixteen College Hall refugees, who could not go until they had gathered some clothes. She announced the resumption of work on the seventh of April, the regular closing of the spring recess. The loss of property is compensated for by no loss or injury to human beings. The maids' dormitory adjacent was saved. Students and Faculty saw all they had perish,—for some of the Faculty the accumulations of a lifetime. The departments of zoology and geology saw their rich collections wiped out, and the data of research work extending over years by individual members of these departments utterly destroyed. But such sacrifice and loss is woven into the finest tradition of College loyalty.

A Member of the Faculty.

College Hall Centre. Photograph by Nichols, Wellesley.

FROM A STUDENT.

My room was situated at the extreme west end of the third floor of College Hall. I was wakened by the first stroke of the big gong and lay in bed while I counted five strokes. I noticed that the strokes seemed weak and hurried. These strokes were followed by five strong, even ones. M. and I put on our kimonos and bedroom slippers, closed our windows and turned on our lights, still supposing it to be a regular fire drill. As we went out of our room, we met S. T. coming for us and we three went downstairs. The girls were crowded in Center, looking out the north door at the glare. I did not realize that College Hall was on fire until I saw that glare. We were ordered to our regular places for roll-call and everyone obeyed instantly. The lieutenant on our corridor called the roll and then the fire chief of College Hall called the roll of the lieutenants. Then someone told us to go out doors and we left the building, some by the south door, but the majority by the north one.

During all this time, no one said "fire" or talked above an ordinary tone of voice, so that the voices of the lieutenants and of the fire chief could be distinctly heard, as well as the sound of the fire above us. No one whom I saw was hysterical, but obeyed orders quietly, even though sparks were falling on us and even pieces of blazing wood We stepped on the sparks and put the first one out, but when pieces of wood began to fall, we had to get out of the way and at this time were ordered to leave the building. We went to other dormitories and borrowed clothes.

NOTES.

The cause of the fire is unknown. There are no well-substantiated theories in regard to its origin. It did not catch in the chemistry laboratory, for the chemistry building, as all who know the present Wellesley are aware, is at the foot of Norumbega Hill. No fires were allowed in College Hall, and the strictest precautions were taken to avoid the danger of fire.

To Miss Davis's rigorous insistence upon fire-drills, in co-operation with the officers of the Student Government Association, the students owe their safety.

The members of the staff living in College Hall are: Miss Myrtilla Avery, '91, Miss Ellen L. Burrell, '80, Miss Lillian E. Bullock, Miss Magdeleine O. Carret, Miss Mary S. Case, Mrs. Cornelia R. Creque, Miss Olive Davis, '86, Miss Elizabeth F. Fisher, Miss Sophie C. Hart, Mrs. Julia J. Irvine, Miss Helen M. Johnston, '05, Miss Amy H. Nye, Miss Alice Robertson, Miss Mary F. Smith, '96, Miss Edith S. Tufts, '84, and Mrs. Charlotte Whiton.

In the speech which she made to the girls on Monday morning, during the celebration of Wellesley's victory in debate, Miss Pendleton said, "It is a fine thing to be enthusiastic over victory, it is a better to learn enthusiasm from defeat."

The key-stone, over the front door, with I. H. S. cut in it was uninjured, and will be removed for use in another building.

The three silver keys that are entrusted to the President at the time of her inauguration, were saved.

A professor of philosophy who lost everything in the fire, said: "I have spent all my life teaching people that the things that are seen are temporal, and now we have the chance of our lives to prove that the things that are unseen are eternal."

A policeman remarked, "There wasn't a girl there who thought about herself, or her own things, or tried to get back. They just stood there in line, some of them barefooted, and handed things along."

A workman is reported as saying: "Those girls even had the hose on, and if there had been any pressure they wouldn't have needed help from outside. There wasn't one there who was not as cool as I was."

A professor of astronomy promptly purchased Mrs. Davis' entire supply of handkerchiefs and distributed them to the sufferers.

To many citizens of the town the College owes much for the help given at the fire. Without their assistance many valuable books and papers would have been burned.

Special gratitude is due to the Wellesley National Bank, which by its prompt offer of assistance, enabled the students to take their departure. Checks to the amount of $25,000 were cashed for students that day.

The Boston and Albany Railroad gave very substantial aid, arranging for transportation and stopping several express trains at Wellesley.

Copies of this issue, until exhausted, may be obtained by sending eleven cents (covering postage) to Fire Issue, COLLEGE NEWS, Wellesley, Mass. Any surplus after paying expenses will be given to the College.

Later issues of COLLEGE NEWS will contain some further details of the fire. Subscriptions for three months (fifty cents) may be sent to COLLEGE NEWS, Wellesley.

Mr. Nichols, of Wellesley, who has kindly allowed us to reproduce his photographs, has other photographs of the ruins, and also pictures of College Hall as it was: 8 x 10, 75 cents; 11 x 14, $1.50; 16 x 20, $3.00.

A widow lady, not a Wellesley Alumna, mother of three little girls, and possessor of a very limited income, sent one dollar, saying that, while the money was nothing, she wished to express in some way her gratitude for what certain daughters of Wellesley had meant to her, and adding that if every friend of Wellesley would send a dollar, the College needs would soon be met. No more beautiful or more significant gift than this can come.

Contributions for relieving the needs of the victims of the fire have been received from many sources.

Work has already been begun upon the temporary Administration building, which will occupy the space east of the chapel and north of Music Hall. This building will be a one-story wooden structure, which is promised for occupation by May 1.

A young instructor, who comes from another college, finding some of the fugitives from College Hall in the village, trying to telephone to their families, helped them carry out their purpose and afterward took them to breakfast. She felt that her knowledge of Wellesley and its influence was greatly furthered by the fact that fire victims, who had lost so many of their own possessions had nothing to say of this, the one subject of conversation being: "How to raise money for the College"

Slips are being taken from the ivy on College Hall and these are being carefully tagged with the numbers of the different classes who have planted it.

Plans are being made for the publication of a souvenir booklet which will contain pictures of College Hall and a history of the building. This book will be on sale at Commencement, it is hoped. Further details will be given later.

There has been much exaggeration of numbers in connection with accounts of the fire. According to Miss Tufts' official record, there were one hundred and ninety-eight students and eighteen members of the Faculty living in College Hall. Of these students seven-eight were Seniors.

OFFICIAL NOTICE TO ALUMNÆ.

The usual announcements relative to the Commencement season will not be sent from the College to each Alumna, and instead the following statement is made.

Tree Day will be observed at 3 o'clock, May 29.

Applications for tickets should be made by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Miss Tufts, and the tickets will be ready for distribution May 20. Commencement Day is June 16. Alumnæ Day is June 17. The exercises of the Commencement season will be as usual, and it is hoped that the reunion classes will gather in large numbers. This is the crucial moment in the life of our Alma Mater. Let all her daughters rally to her aid.

Through the class secretaries the members of reunion classes will receive any official notice from the College.

I. Addresses: Every Alumna is earnestly requested to send her correct address to the General Secretary, Mrs. Mary G. Ahlers, Wellesley College, and to report any changes in that address up to September first, when the new Alumnæ Register will go to print.

II. Dues: Every Alumna who has not paid her annual dues of one dollar to the Alumnæ Association is urged to do so at once and thus show her loyalty and interest. According to the 1913 amendment to the By-laws, only those who pay their annual dues or are life members receive notices of association meetings and the reports of the President and the Treasurer of the College.

III. The Alumnæ office will be in Billings Hall. Alumnæ should consult a list posted in the Railway Station, giving the houses to which reunion classes are assigned and to which baggage may be sent. Alumnæ will register in Billings Hall.

IV. The chairman of the Committee of Arrangements for each class of ten years' standing or more, having a reunion, is requested to consult the Registrar of the College in regard to the assignment of class headquarters during Commencement Week. Reunion classes are '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, '11, '13.

V. The Alumnæ prayer-meeting will be held on the morning of Baccalaureate Sunday at 9.45, in the chapel.

VI. The annual meeting of the Wellesley Alumnæ Chapter of the College Settlements Association will be held on the morning of Alumnæ Day at 9.30 o'clock in Billings Hall.

VII. Alumnæ owning caps and gowns are requested to use them on Commencement Day. Those desiring caps and gowns or hoods, should communicate with the Registrar of the College. Notices in regard to the delivery of these will be posted at Billings Hall.

VIII. All mail should be addressed "Wellesley College Alumnæ Mail."

IX. The attention of Alumnæ is called to the fact that the business meeting will be held on June 17 at 10, A.M., in Billings Hall. All are asked to be prompt.

X. It is expected that the Alumnæ Luncheon will be held on Alumnæ Day, but the place is not yet determined.

ALICE UPTON PEARMAIN, '83,
President of the Wellesley College Alumnæ Association.

MARY GILMAN AHLERS, '88,
Alumnæ General Secretary.

It is probable that an account of the fire drill at Wellesley will be given in some later issue of the NEWS, with a history of its development from the drills of twenty years ago to the present time.

This number of the NEWS is being sent to all Alumnæ and former students. The Board of Editors, during their absence from College, kindly permitted Alumnæ in Wellesley to prepare this issue.

AN APPEAL IN BEHALF OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

On March 17, 1914, College Hall, the center of College activities, was destroyed by fire. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 30, to consider the whole situation, it was finally voted to appeal to the friends of Wellesley College and to the friends of education throughout the country, for a fund of $1,800,000 to replace facilities afforded by College Hall, and to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund.

NEEDS OF WELLESLEY COLLEGE.

I. Before the Fire.

Before College Hall was destroyed, the Trustees had recognized the following vital needs of the College:

1. Increased endowment.
2. Better housing for the departments of science.
3. Additional halls of residence.
4. A Student-Alumnæ building.

A site for a new residence quadrangle was approved in November, 1911, and the Trustees had authorized the building of one hall of residence on this site. A plan for a group of science buildings was also under consideration. The Alumnæ and former students of the College had secured upward of $40,000 toward a Student-Alumnæ building which was to furnish an auditorium and suitable offices for Alumnæ and student organizations. All these plans were made without any intention of increasing the size of the College. The halls of residence were needed to house students already in attendance who were living in the town of Wellesley, many of them in private houses, others in houses leased and operated by the College. The new science buildings were needed to house the departments already overcrowded in rooms originally designed for residence and ill adapted for scientific laboratories. There was no auditorium which could seat the whole College, aside from the Memorial Chapel, given for religious purposes. Important as this need for buildings was, it was decided in March, 1913, to postpone temporarily any appeal for buildings and to concentrate on an effort to raise a million dollars for endowment. This endowment is necessary primarily to increase salaries. All the members of the teaching staff of professional rank are serving the College on salaries distinctly lower than those paid to their peers in every other woman's college in New England save one. The General Education Board promises $200,000 toward this endowment fund, provided the balance of $800,000 is secured on or before June 30, 1915. $560,000 of this million remain to be raised before that date or the College loses the sum promised by the General Education Board. This campaign for endowment must, therefore, go steadily forward.

On the authority of an expert on endowment and equipment of colleges, it may be conservatively stated that Wellesley College needed before the burning of College Hall, two million dollars, one million for endowment and a second million for buildings.

II. Since the Fire.

College Hall, the building which was burned on March 17, contained:

I. Offices:
- For administration..... 9
- For departments..... 14
- For student organizations..... 3

II. Twenty-eight lecture rooms and class rooms with a total seating capacity of 1,200. Assembly Hall with seating capacity of 650. Study Hall with seating capacity of 75. Laboratories, museums, and other equipment in Geology, Physics, Psychology and Zoology for a College of 1,500. Department libraries in Geology, Physics, and Zoology were also included. Residence for 216 people, including dining-rooms, parlors, etc. Luncheon and cloak rooms for non-resident members of the Faculty and students.

The fact that so much was included in one building is a witness to the splendid use of every inch of space. The College requires to replace the accommodations furnished by College Hall for:

	Estimated Cost.
I. Residence purposes: Accommodations for 240,	$450,000.00
2. Academic and administrative purposes, Scientific laboratories for Geology, Physics, Psychology and Zoology Administrative offices and Assembly Hall, Recitation Hall, addition to central heating plant made necessary by these buildings, including conduits, grading, etc.	900,000.00
3. For equipment of these buildings and laboratories,	223,000.00
4. Additional endowment necessary for the maintenance of these separate buildings,	250,000.00
Total necessary for replacement,	$1,823,000.00
Recovered from insurance on building, $470,000.00	
Recovered from insurance on equipment, 123,000.00	
	$593,000.00
Balance necessary for replacement of facilities destroyed by fire,	$1,230,000.00

This sum is required in addition to the insurance already paid as above because the cost of separate buildings with modern construction is so great. To this sum must, therefore, be added the $560,000 still necessary to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund, making a total of $1,790,000.

To put the College where it was before the burning of College Hall, to secure the Million Dollar Endowment Fund, and to meet the other vital needs existing before the fire, Wellesley College needs three million dollars. The Trustees recognize that this is a large sum to raise, but there are certain demands growing out of our recent loss which must be met at once if Wellesley College is to keep its place in the front rank. They have, therefore, decided to make at this time an appeal for $1,800,000, the sum required to replace the accommodations furnished by College Hall, and to complete the Million Dollar Endowment Fund. This leaves to be secured through later gifts a balance of $1,200,000, the amount necessary to satisfy the other needs. Of the $1,800,000 for which this appeal is made, $560,000 (amount necessary to complete the Million Dollar Endowment) must be secured, as announced earlier, on or before June 30, 1915. The Trustees propose to secure the balance, $1,240,000 on or before January 1, 1915.

Wellesley College was dedicated to the service of God and was founded with the announced purpose of "giving to young women opportunities for education equivalent to those provided in colleges for young men." It has freely opened its doors to all races and creeds. Its service has been national, not local. The enrollment for the present year is 1,480. More than sixty-two per cent. of these students claim residence outside of New England. The College undertakes to prepare its students for effective Christian citizenship, and stands for high ideals of scholarship and of life. The public press has already paid tribute to the Wellesley training as tested in the recent fire. Wellesley College faces a crisis in its history, and its appeal to the friends of education rests on an honorable past.

Signed:

WILLIAM LAWRENCE,
President of the Board of Trustees.

ELLEN F. PENDLETON,
President of Wellesley College.

April 2, 1914.

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